

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 10265 280652Z

17

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAM-01 DRC-01 /137 W

----- 079433

R 271347Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9903

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS BEIRUT 10265

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: ELF SPOKESMAN CALLS ON ETHIOPIAN MILITARY TO JOIN IN  
PEACE TALKS

SUMMARY: ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT (ELF) SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED  
FRONT'S WILLINGNESS TO HOLD PEACE TALKS WITH ETHIOPIAN MILITARY  
LEADERS IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY IF LATTER PUBLICLY RECOGNIZE ELF  
AS SOLE LEGITIMATE REP OF ERITREAN PEOPLE. HE ALSO CALLED  
ON UN TO SEND IMMEDIATE FACT-FINDING MISSION TO ERITREA AS  
STEP TOWARD SELF-DETERMINATION BY POPULAR REFERENDUM. END  
SUMMARY.

1. AT AUG. 26 PRESS CONFERENCE AT BEIRUT, MOHAMMAD SAID IDRIS OF  
ELF DECLARED FRONT WILLING TO NEGOTIATE PEACE SETTLEMENT WITH  
RULING ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE IN ANY MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE  
NEUTRAL COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, SAID INDICATED HIS  
STATEMENT WAS OFFICIAL ELF REPLY TO RECENT ETHIOPIAN MILITARY  
FEELERS RE NEGOTIATIONS. HE POSED SINGLE FRONT CONDITION FOR TALKS--  
PRIOR ETHIOPIAN PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF ELF AS "SOLE LEGITIMATE  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 10265 280652Z

REP OF ERITREAN PEOPLE."

2. HE ALSO CALLED ON UN TO DESPATCH FACT-FINDING COMMISSION TO ERITREA AS STEP TOWARD EVENTUAL SELF-DETERMINATION BY POPULAR REFERENDUM WHICH, HE PROPOSED, BE UNDER SUPERVISION OF UN, OAU AND ARAB LEAGUE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, SAID REPORTEDLY REJECTED IDEA OF ERITREAN AUTONOMY WITHIN OR FEDERATION WITH ETHIOPIA, BUT HE ADDED THAT ELF PREPARED TO CONCLUDE POST-INDEPENDENCE ALLIANCE WITH ETHIOPIA AND TO NEGOTIATE ETHIOPIAN CORRIDOR ACROSS ERITREA TO RED SEA.

4. WARNING THAT ALTERNATIVE TO SETTLEMENT TALKS WOULD BE RENEWED ELF MILITARY OPERATIONS, HE CRITICIZED "ETHIOPIAN IMPERIALISM AND EXPANSIONIST POLICY" OF PAST AND MADE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CURRENT ETHIOPIAN MILITARY LEADERS AND PREVIOUS CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP. HE SAID ELF HAD NO CONFIDENCE IN HAILE SELASSIE (WHO "MANEUVERING TO TRY TO RECOVER CONTROL OF COUNTRY") BUT DID NOT INSIST UPON EMPERIOR'S REMOVAL AS PRE-CONDITION TO TALKS EVEN THOUGH THAT WOULD "PROVIDE BETTER CLIMATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS." GODLEY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE TALKS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BEIRUT10265  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740237-0932  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740816/aaaaangw.tel  
**Line Count:** 81  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** WorrelSW  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 JUN 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <24 JAN 2003 by WorrelSW>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ELF SPOKESMAN CALLS ON ETHIOPIAN MILITARY TO JOIN IN PEACE TALKS  
**TAGS:** PINS, ET, ELF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005